

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of transmitting data between devices interconnected via a bus, which comprises:

transmitting, in units, data and information, concerning at least one of a transmission of the data and a use of the data, from a first device to one or more second devices to which the data does not concern, ~~and/or~~ and one or more third devices [[,]] to which the data does concern;

forming the units at least partly with at least one region defining a given time slot within which the second ~~and/or~~ and third devices can output onto the bus specific information and/or data; and

defining, in the second and third devices [[,]] enabled for outputting data within the given time slot, settings selected from the group consisting of a setting to determine under which conditions information and/or data are to be output within the given time slot, a setting to determine which information and/or data are to be output within the given

time slot, and a setting to determine at which points in time within the given time slot the information and/or data are to be output.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining the settings relating to the given time slot before a start of the transmission of the unit containing the given time slot.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining the settings relating to the given time slot with one or more of the devices connected to the bus.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining the settings relating to the given time slot based on one of data and instructions transmitted to the respective devices via the bus.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining the settings relating to the given time slot upon initializing the devices.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises storing the settings relating to the given time slot in nonvolatile memory devices.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the units for transmitting the data and the information concerning the transmission or the use of the data are frames.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the units for transmitting the data and the information concerning the transmission or the use of the data are messages.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the units in which the data to be transmitted are transmitted together with the information which is required or useful for the transmission and/or the use of the data is transmitted in each case serially via the bus at a specific transmission clock rate.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining with the data and information contained in the units containing the data and information required or useful for the transmission or the

use of the data, whether certain devices output information onto the bus and at which points in time.

Claim 12 (original): The method according to claim 11, which comprises determining with the data and information contained in the units which devices output information onto the bus.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises defining the given time slot for transmission of one or more bits via the bus.

Claim 14 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the data to be output onto the bus during the given time slot comprise a positive acknowledge bit indicating that the device outputting the acknowledge bit onto the bus has previously received in a fault-free condition data transmitted via the bus.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the one or more second and/or third devices which are connected to the bus are set in such a way that exclusively, the one or more third devices, for which the data transmitted via the bus are intended, acknowledge the fault-free reception of the data by outputting a positive acknowledge bit onto the bus.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein, if a plurality of the devices connected to the bus are set in such a way that they have to acknowledge the fault-free reception of the data by outputting a positive acknowledge bit, the plurality of devices are set such that the positive acknowledge bits are output by the plurality of devices at different points in time.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that the one or more second devices, for which the data transmitted via the bus is not intended, do not output any data onto the bus at least at the points in time at which the one or more third devices, for which the data transmitted via the bus is intended, must be able to acknowledge the fault-free reception of the data.

Claim 18 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the data to be output onto the bus during the given time slot comprise a negative acknowledge bit indicating that the device outputting the negative acknowledge bit onto the bus has previously not received in a fault-free condition data transmitted via the bus.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that exclusively, the one or more third devices, for which the data transmitted via the bus is intended, signal a non-fault-free reception of the data by outputting a negative acknowledge bit onto the bus.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein if a plurality of the devices connected to the bus are set such that they have to signal the non-fault-free reception of the data by outputting a negative acknowledge bit, at least some of the plurality of the devices are set such that they output at the same time the negative acknowledge bits that are to be output if at least some of the plurality of devices receive non-fault-free data.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that the at least one second device, for which the data transmitted via the bus is not intended, does not output any data onto the bus at least at the points in time at which the at least one third device, for which the data transmitted via the bus is intended, must be able to signal the non-fault-free reception of the data.

Claim 22 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that individual devices, a plurality of devices, or all the devices connected to the bus output a positive acknowledge bit onto the bus at different points in time within the given time slot if the devices have received in a fault-free condition data previously transmitted via the bus, or they output a negative acknowledge bit if the opposite is the case, in each case at other, different points in time within the given time slot.

Claim 23 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that a content of the current frame or of a specific preceding frame or the content of the current message or of a specific preceding message determines which of the devices has to output which information onto the bus at which point in time.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of transmitting data between devices interconnected via a bus, which comprises:

transmitting, in units, data and information, concerning at least one of a transmission and a use of the data, from a first device to one or more second devices, to which the data is not intended, and ~~and/or~~ one or more third devices, to which the data is intended;

forming the units at least partly with at least one region
defining a given time slot within which the one or more
second and ~~and/or~~ third devices can output onto the bus
information and/or data; and

defining, ~~at least in specific devices~~ in the first device,
settings selected from the group consisting of a setting to
determine which other devices have to output information
and/or data within the given time slot, a setting to
determine which information and/or data are to be output
within the given time slot by the other devices, and a
setting to determine at which points in time within the given
time slot the other devices have to output the respective
information and/or data.

Claim 25 (original): The method according to claim 24, which
comprises determining the settings relating to the given time
slot before a start of the transmission of the unit
containing the given time slot.

Claim 26 (original): The method according to claim 24, which
comprises determining the settings relating to the given time
slot with one or more of the devices connected to the bus.

Claim 27 (original): The method according to claim 24, which
comprises determining the settings relating to the given time

slot based on one of data and instructions transmitted to the respective devices via the bus.

Claim 28 (original): The method according to claim 24, which comprises determining the settings relating to the given time slot upon initializing the devices.

Claim 29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (original): The method according to claim 24, which comprises storing the settings relating to the given time slot in nonvolatile memory devices.

Claim 31 (original): The method according to claim 24, wherein the units for transmitting the data and the information concerning the transmission or the use of the data are frames.

Claim 32 (original): The method according to claim 24, wherein the units for transmitting the data and the information concerning the transmission or the use of the data are messages.

Claim 33 (original): The method according to claim 24, wherein the units in which the data to be transmitted are

transmitted together with the information which is required or useful for the transmission and/or the use of the data is transmitted in each case serially via the bus at a specific transmission clock rate.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method according to claim 24, which comprises determining with the data and information contained in the units containing the data and information required or useful for the transmission or the use of the data, whether certain devices output information onto the bus and at which points in time.

Claim 35 (original): The method according to claim 34, which comprises determining with the data and information contained in the units which devices output information onto the bus.

Claim 36 (original): The method according to claim 24, which comprises defining the given time slot for transmission of one or more bits via the bus.

Claim 37 (original): The method according to claim 24, wherein the data to be output onto the bus during the given time slot comprise a positive acknowledge bit indicating that the device outputting the acknowledge bit onto the bus has

previously received in a fault-free condition data transmitted via the bus.

Claim 38 (original): The method according to claim 37, wherein the devices which are connected to the bus are set in such a way that exclusively devices for which the data transmitted via the bus are intended acknowledge the fault-free reception of the data by outputting a positive acknowledge bit onto the bus.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method according to claim 37, wherein, if a plurality of the devices connected to the bus are set in such a way that they have to acknowledge the fault-free reception of the data by outputting a positive acknowledge bit, the plurality of devices are set such that the positive acknowledge bits, which are to be output if at least some of the plurality of devices receive fault-free data, are output by the plurality of devices at different points in time.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method according to claim 38, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that the one or more second devices, for which the data transmitted via the bus is not intended, do not output any data onto the bus at least at the points in time at which the

one or more third devices, for which the data transmitted via the bus is intended, must be able to acknowledge the fault-free reception of the data.

Claim 41 (original): The method according to claim 24, wherein the data to be output onto the bus during the given time slot comprise a negative acknowledge bit indicating that the device outputting the negative acknowledge bit onto the bus has previously not received in a fault-free condition data transmitted via the bus.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that exclusively, the one or more third devices, for which the data transmitted via the bus is intended, signal a non-fault-free reception of the data by outputting a negative acknowledge bit onto the bus.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein if a plurality of the devices connected to the bus are set such that they have to signal the non-fault-free reception of the data by outputting a negative acknowledge bit, at least some of the plurality of the devices are set such that they output at the same time the

negative acknowledge bits that are to be output if at least some of the plurality of devices receive non-fault-free data.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that the at least one second device, for which the data transmitted via the bus is not intended, does not output any data onto the bus at least at the points in time at which the at least one third device, for which the data transmitted via the bus is intended, must be able to signal the non-fault-free reception of the data.

Claim 45 (original): The method according to claim 24, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that individual devices, a plurality of devices, or all the devices connected to the bus output a positive acknowledge bit onto the bus at different points in time within the given time slot if the devices have received in a fault-free condition data previously transmitted via the bus, or they output a negative acknowledge bit if the opposite is the case, in each case at other, different points in time within the given time slot.

Claim 46 (original): The method according to claim 24, wherein the devices connected to the bus are set such that a

content of the current frame or of a specific preceding frame or the content of the current message or of a specific preceding message determines which of the devices has to output which information onto the bus at which point in time.

Claims 47-92 (canceled).

Claim 93 (new): A method of transmitting data between devices interconnected via a bus, which comprises:

transmitting, in units, data and information, concerning at least one of a transmission and a use of the data, from a first device to one or more second devices to which the data does not concern, and/or one or more third devices to which the data does concern;

forming the units at least partly with at least one region defining a given time slot within which the second and/or third devices can output onto the bus specific information and/or data; and

defining, in the second and third devices enabled for outputting data within the given time slot, variable settings of the given time slot selected from the group consisting of a setting to determine under which conditions information

and/or data are to be output within the given time slot, a setting to determine which information and/or data are to be output within the given time slot, and a setting to determine at which points in time within the given time slot the information and/or data are to be output.

Claim 94 (new): A method of transmitting data between devices interconnected via a bus, which comprises:

transmitting, in units, data and information, concerning at least one of a transmission and a use of the data, from a first device to one or more second devices, to which the data is not intended and/or one or more third devices, to which the data is intended;

forming the units at least partly with at least one region defining a given time slot within which the one or more second and/or third devices can output onto the bus information and/or data; and

defining, in the first device, variable settings of the given time slot selected from the group consisting of a setting to determine which other devices have to output information and/or data within the given time slot, a setting to determine which information and/or data are to be output

Appl. No. 09/883,817
Amdt. Dated September 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2004

within the given time slot by the other devices, and a
setting to determine at which points in time within the given
time slot the other device have to output the respective
information and/or data.